

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Senators, my name is Joel Fulton, an NRA Life Member, NRA Training Counselor, and the co-owner of Freedom Firearms and Southside Sportsman Club of Battle Creek, Michigan. I am offering this written testimony in support of Senate Bill number 63. Section 2 of this bill lays out the principles for why this bill should be passed by both the senate and the house and signed into law by Governor Snyder.

For too long we the people and the states of this great union have suffered under the continued expansion of Federal authority. The Federal Government has declared itself to have ever expanding authority to continuously regulate almost every aspect of our personal lives and the affairs of our state. They have done so by stretching the "Commerce Clause" of the United States Constitution so wide you could run a freight train through it. It is long past time for the states and especially the State of Michigan to restore the checks and balances envisioned by our Founders by reclaiming their rights under the Ninth and Tenth Amendments of our United States Constitution.

Unlike the issue of marijuana for instance, the right to keep and bear arms is a fundamental Constitutional right enshrined not only in the U.S. Constitution but also, and more importantly, in the Michigan Constitution as well. It would be much more difficult for the Federal Government to assert any control or authority to negate or regulate an enumerated right from both constitutions.

If the Federal authorities make the unwise decision to attempt to override the will of the State of Michigan on this decision, they will find more resistance than they would on any other issue. If they bust down the door of someone legally medicating with marijuana under authority of Michigan Law, then the only resistance they encounter is a verbal protest from someone whose body was broken in the first place and needed medication to mitigate persistent pain. If the Federal authorities bust down the door of someone legally exercising their right to keep and bear arms, they are likely to encounter a righteous citizen willing and able to exercise that right and the equipment they possess.

My only suggestion for this law is to add a section which would make it a felony for Federal authorities to illegally enforce Federal gun laws in our state and instruct our County Sheriff's that agents who attempt to do so shall be arrested and prosecuted in this state. Adding that section would cause me to be more inclined to allow myself to be arrested by a Federal agent knowing that in the morning they would be apprehended, I would be freed, and they would be prosecuted. The alternative is that I will choose not to be arrested.

This legislation can and of right ought to be passed and may the Federal Government of the United States from here forward recognize and be put on notice that it is first "We the People", then the States, and finally the United States; not the other way around.

Respectfully Submitted,

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